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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Air National Guard receives AFA award

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Brig. Gen. Steven Doohen, Adjutant General for the South Dakota National Guard, and Col. Russ Walz, wing commander for the 114th Fighter Wing, received the Air Force Association Outstanding Air National Guard Unit award on behalf of the 114th Fighter Wing, South Dakota Air National Guard, on Monday, Sept. 24, at the AFA National Aerospace Conference held at the nation's capitol.

The AFA award was presented for the exceptional meritorious service displayed by the men and women of the 114th Fighter Wing. The unit, located at Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls, S.D., consistently met and exceeded authorized strength in its recruiting and retention efforts; thus, establishing the standard for Air National Guard units across the nation.

The men and women of the 114th Fighter Wing made significant contributions to Operation Iraqi Freedom when deployed for more than three months to Iraq where the unit flew about 500 sorties that encompassed 2,600 flying hours.

Recently, unit members deployed throughout the United States, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Pakistan, along the U.S.-Mexico border and many other locations across the globe. The 114th Fighter Wing's pilots were recognized for their recent achievements in Iraq, earning 23 Air Medals.